09/681,448   SCHNEIDER

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A provider initiated notification method for notifying a telephone subscriber having a first telephone number of a second telephone number available for subscription, comprising:

generating at least one by a processor in operative association with a communication network the second telephone number that is mnemonically related to said first phone number;

determining by a processor in operative association with said communication network that the that at least one second telephone number is available for subscription; and,

said provider initiating communication to notifying the telephone subscriber regarding the availability of said at least one available through said communication network of availability of the second telephone number.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, further including determining whether receiving a request from the telephone subscriber is interested in subscribing to any of said at least one available to one of a subscribe to and reserve the second telephone number in response to said notifying the telephone subscriber.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said communicating to notifying the telephone subscriber includes automatically pushing notification to the telephone subscriber in response to determining that said at least one the second telephone number is available for subscription.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said communicating to the subscriber includes notifying the telephone subscriber by includes at least one of a placing a phone call, sending a mailpiece, sending a network communication, and in response to receiving a communication from the subscriber wherein said received communication is not any communication other than that of a subscriber initiated request for subscribing to an available telephone number.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said received communication from the telephone subscriber is received from at least one of a telephone call, mailpiece, and network communication.

2

09/681,448   SCHNEIDER

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method, as set forth in claim 5, wherein said mailpiece is one of a portable storage media, letter, postcard, and utility bill, said phone call is one of a voice, data, and fax, and said network communication is one of a URI, e-mail, bill, and web page data.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, further including generating said mnemonic relationship of ~~said at least one~~ the second telephone number from the first telephone number.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein both the first telephone number and ~~each said~~ the second telephone number includes same digits and said mnemonic relationship of ~~each said~~ the second telephone number is a different order of said digits with respect to the first telephone number.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein the first telephone number and ~~each said~~ the second telephone number includes a same amount of digits and said mnemonic relationship of ~~each said~~ the second telephone number differs by at least one digit with respect to the first telephone number.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said mnemonic relationship of said generated second telephone number is at least one of a contiguous, same area code, same central exchange, and same block of 10, 100, 1,000 or 10,000 numbers with respect to the first telephone number.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said ~~communicating to the subscriber includes~~ notifying the telephone subscriber includes processing a telephone call in ~~the~~ a communication network to the first telephone number.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 11, ~~1,~~ wherein said processing said phone call includes receiving dialed digits from a calling party corresponding to the first telephone number, placing a telephone call connection from said calling party through the communication

3

network to a called party of the first telephone number, and communicating with said called party to determine whether said called party is interested in subscribing to said at least one available the second telephone number.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said telephone call connection between said calling party and said called party is placed through one of a land line public switched telephone network, cellular network, AIN network, ATM, and IP telephony.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said calling party is one of a service provider, telephone operator, and directory assistance provider.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said communicating with said called party includes presenting a menu including options for one of a contacting said calling party and subscribing to said at least one available the second phone number.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method, as set forth in claim 15, further including receiving dialed digits entered by said calling party on a telephone keypad, said digits identifying a selected one of said options listed in said menu.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method, as set forth in claim 15, further including receiving speech captured from said calling party, said captured speech identifying a selected one of said options listed in said menu.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 1, further including receiving from the telephone subscriber a filter list having said at least one the second telephone number before determining whether said at least one the second telephone number is available for subscription.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein said determining that said at least one the second telephone number is available for subscription includes comparing each said generated the second phone number to said filter list.

4

09/681,448   SCHNEIDER

Claim 20-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~In a communication network, a~~ A method for processing a telephone call <u>initiated by a calling party to a called party having a called first telephone number,</u> comprising:

    receiving <u>at a communication network</u> ~~dialed digits from a calling party corresponding to a~~ <u>the</u> called telephone number;

    ~~attempting to place a~~ <u>initiating a</u> telephone call connection from ~~said~~ <u>the</u> calling party through ~~the~~ <u>said</u> communication network to ~~said~~ <u>the</u> called telephone number;

    determining ~~that said~~ <u>by a processor in operative association with said communication network that the called</u> first telephone number is one of a changed <u>telephone</u> number and disconnected <u>telephone</u> number;~~and,~~

    <u>determining by a processor in operative association with said communication network that said</u> ~~that~~ <u>the called first telephone number is available for subscription; and,</u>

    <u>notifying the telephone subscriber through said communication network that the called first telephone number is available for subscription.</u>

    ~~communicating with said calling party to determine whether said calling party may be interested in subscribing to at least one of a said phone number and any available phone number mnemonically related to said phone number.~~

Claim 24 (currently amended): A <u>provider initiated</u> method for notifying a <u>one or more telephone</u> subscriber<u>s</u> comprising:

    generating <u>by a processor in operative association with a communication network</u> a first list having at least one <u>telephone</u> number <u>determined</u> available for subscription;

    generating <u>by a processor in operative association with said communication network</u> a second list having at least one subscriber<u>telephone number and contact information for each said telephone subscriber</u> ~~each subscriber having at least one subscriber phone number~~ wherein each said subscriber telephone number is mnemonically related to said at least one <u>telephone</u> number available for subscription; and,

    ~~communicating to said at least one subscriber~~ <u>notifying said one or more telephone subscribers</u> <u>corresponding to</u> ~~from~~ said second list <u>through said communication network,</u> ~~regarding~~ the availability of said at least one available <u>telephone</u> number from said second list ~~that is~~ mnemonically

5

09/681,448   SCHNEIDER

related to said at least one subscriber telephone number from said first list.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A provider initiated notification method for notifying one or more telephone subscribers comprising:

discovering by a processor in operative association with a communication network that a first telephone number is available for subscription;

generating by a processor in operative association with said communication network one or more second telephone numbers that are mnemonically related to said first telephone number;

determining by a processor in operative association with said communication network that at least one second phone number is not available for subscription, said at least one second phone number corresponding to the one or more telephone subscribers a subscriber; and,

communicating to notifying the one or more telephone subscribers through said communication network the subscriber, the availability of said first phone number.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (new): A method for a provider sending a first content to a subscriber comprising:

generating by a processor in operative association with a communication network the first content corresponding to a first telephone number of the subscriber;

generating by a processor in operative association with said communication network one or more second telephone numbers that are mnemonically related to said first telephone number;

determining by a processor in operative association with a communication network that said one or more second telephone numbers are available for subscription;

creating by a processor in operative association with said communication network a second content including the first content and information indicating that said one or more second telephone numbers are available for subscription; and,

sending said second content to the subscriber through said communication network.

Claim 29 (new): The method, as set forth in claim 28, wherein said first content is one of a bill,

6

invoice, general notice, and renewal notice.

Claim 30 (new): The method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the subscriber is a utility subscriber, the provider is a utility provider, and said bill is a utility bill.

Claim 31 (new): The method, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the subscriber is a telephone subscriber, the provider is a telephone provider, and said bill is a telephone bill.

Claim 32 (new): The method, as set forth in claim 28, further including generating by a processor in operative association with said communication network one or more domain names that are mnemonically related to said first telephone number, determining that said one or more domain names are available for registration, and adding said one or more domain names to said second content.

7